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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/57/L.70)*]

57/13. South American zone of peace and cooperation

The General Assembly,

Convinced that peace, security and cooperation should be grounded in commitments that reinforce mutual trust and promote development and the overall well-being of peoples to the benefit of all humanity and, in particular, the peoples of South America,

Bearing in mind the initiatives of various Governments and regional groups in South America, such as the Andean Agreement on Peace, Security and Cooperation, contained in the Galapagos Declaration of 18 December 1989,[1] the Declaration of MERCOSUR, Bolivia and Chile as a Zone of Peace, signed in Ushuaia, Argentina, in July 1999; and the Lima Commitment and Andean Charter for Peace and Security, signed on 17 June 2002,[2]

Recalling the commitment undertaken in the Brasilia Communiqué issued on 1 September 2000[3] to create a South American zone of peace,

Recognizing that the bases and actions for a project on the creation of a South American zone of peace and cooperation, formulated at the first meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Andean Community, MERCOSUR and Chile, held in La Paz on 17 July 2001, constitute an appropriate set of guidelines for building the zone of peace and cooperation on firm foundations, supported by the consensus of the whole region and based, among various other measures, on the fostering of trust, cooperation and ongoing consultation in the areas of security and defence, coordinated action in the relevant international forums, and transparency and a gradual limitation of arms purchases under the system established in the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions,[4] the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and other arrangements established in the regional and international conventions related to this important topic,

[1] See CD/1011.
[2] See CD/1678; see also A/C.1/57/4, annex.
[3] A/55/375, annex I.
[4] See CD/1591.

Also recognizing the firm intent of the States of South America to adopt measures contributing to an effective and gradual limitation of defence expenditures in the region with the aim of having more resources available for the economic and social development of their peoples, in particular in order to devote the resources released from military budgets to combating poverty by moving forward with health and education programmes and other social benefits for inhabitants, taking into account each country's security needs and current levels of expenditure,

Recalling the principles and norms of international law enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States, especially those related to international peace and security,

Also recalling the important contribution of the United Nations in the sphere of international peace and security and, in that regard, the valuable input of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, with headquarters in Lima,

Convinced that the establishment of a zone of peace and cooperation in South America will help to strengthen international peace and security and promote the purposes and principles of the United Nations,

1. *Welcomes* the Declaration of the Presidents of South America, adopted at their second meeting, in Guayaquil, Ecuador, on 27 July 2002, in which they declared South America a zone of peace and cooperation;[1]

2. *Commends* the decision of the States of South America to ban the use or threat of use of force among themselves, in keeping with the principles and relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and the Charter of the Organization of American States;

3. *Also commends* the decision of the States of South America to ban the siting, development, manufacture, possession, deployment, testing and use of any type of weapon of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical, biological and toxic weapons, and their transport through the countries of the South American region, in accordance with the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons in Latin America and the Caribbean (Treaty of Tlatelolco)[2] and other international conventions on the matter;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* the commitment of the States of South America to establishing a gradual system that will lead, in the shortest time possible, to the complete eradication of anti-personnel mines in accordance with the provisions of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-personnel Mines and on Their Destruction[3] and to implementing the recommendations of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;[4]

5. *Welcomes* the desire of the States of South America to promote transparency and a gradual limitation of arms purchases under the system established in the Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions,[5] the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms and

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[1] See A/57/554.

[2] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 634, No. 9068.

[3] See A/CONF.187/9.

[4] See *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, New York, 9–20 July 2001* (A/CONF.192/15), part one.

other arrangements established in the regional and international conventions related to this important topic;

6. *Urges* all States of the other regions, particularly weapons-producing States, to cooperate decisively in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons throughout the region of South America;

7. *Calls upon* the States of the other regions to contribute to and cooperate with the objectives set forth in the Declaration regarding a South American zone of peace and cooperation.

76th plenary meeting
13th November 2002